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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS.

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BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK.

SEED AND PLANTS FOR THE HOME GARDEN.

TO SUPPLY VEGETABLES FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR PERSONS.

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There is no part of the home food supply which adds so much to the health, happiness, and satisfaction of the whole family as a generous supply of cool, crisp vegetables right out of the family garden. In general, no other equal area of land and no equal amount of work will bring such rich returns in food value as that devoted to this same little garden. The suggestions in this circular refer to the possible requirements of a family of four persons; larger families will require correspondingly more, and smaller families correspondingly less.

If vegetables are desired for home canning, the amounts of seed mentioned later should be increased, and the garden space at least doubled. This will make possible "a winter garden" through a full storeroom of canned vegetables. Send for NR-Series on Home Canning Instructions for your guidance.

The first thing to do right now is to plant seeds of early tomatoes and early cabbage in a seed box (see fig. 1) in the house so the plants will be ready to set out of doors when the weather is warm enough. If a few cauliflower and pepper plants are desired, seeds of these may be planted also. Two or three dozen early tomato plants, three or four dozen early cabbage plants, two or three dozen cauliflower plants, and ten or twelve pepper plants, will at least be required. This refers to the early garden only.

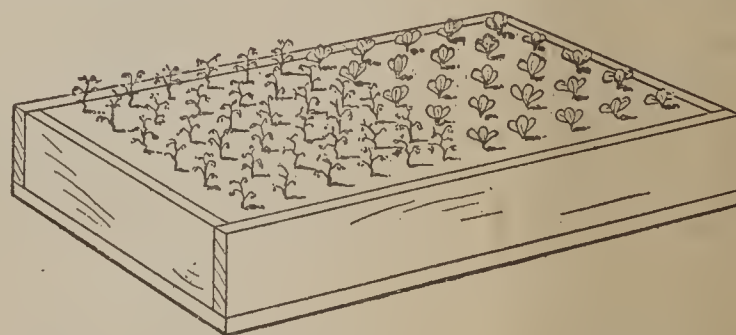


FIG. 1.—Seed box for growing vegetable plants. Dimensions: 3-4 inches deep, 12-14 inches wide, and 20-24 inches long.

MAKING A SEED BOX.

Seeds of these four vegetables should be planted in a seed box (fig. 1) in the house at once. The seed box should be 3 to 4 inches deep, 12 to 14 inches wide, and 20 to 24 inches long. A layer of about one inch of gravel or cinders should be placed in the bottom of the box, then it should be filled nearly full of rich garden soil, or soil enriched with decayed leaves or manure. The rich soil beneath the family wood pile or around decaying logs is splendid for this purpose. The soil should be pressed down firmly with a small piece of board and rows made $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep and 2 inches apart crosswise of the box. The seed should be distributed 8 or 10 to the inch in the rows and be covered. The soil should be watered and the box set in a warm place in the light, in the sunshine by a window being best. Water enough must be given from time

to time to cause the seeds to germinate and grow thriftily, but not enough to leak through the box. If a piece of glass is used to cover the box, it will hold the moisture in the soil and hasten the early growth of the plants.

TAKE OUT SURPLUS PLANTS.

When the plants are from an inch to an inch and a half high, they should be thinned to one or two inches apart in the row so as to give them space enough to make a strong stocky growth. If it is desired to keep the plants which are thinned out, they may be set 2 inches apart each way, in other boxes prepared as mentioned for the seed box. When the weather becomes mild, the box of plants should be set out of doors part of the time so that the plants will "harden off" in preparation for transplanting to the garden later. A good watering should be given just before the plants are taken out of the box for transplanting so that a large ball of earth will stick to the roots of each one.

AMOUNTS OF SEED OF DIFFERENT VEGETABLES FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR.

The vegetable seed for planting in the garden later *should be ordered at once*, so that garden making will not be delayed when the weather has warmed up sufficiently to begin operations. The following amounts of seed are suggested and both lists of these given will plant approximately 100 feet of row:

Beans, snap.....	1 pint.	Eggplant.....	1 packet.
Beans, pole lima.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ pint.	Kale, or Swiss chard.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
Beans, bush lima.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ pint to 1 pint.	Parsley.....	1 packet.
Cabbage, early.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.	Parsnips.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
Carrot.....	1 ounce.	Salsify.....	1 ounce.
Cauliflower.....	1 packet.	Squash, summer.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
Celery.....	1 packet.	Squash, Hubbard type.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
Cucumber.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.		

The following vegetables will undoubtedly be planted in larger amounts than those just mentioned, and the amounts of seed given for 100 feet of row will be a guide for ordinary requirements. Some families may need more of the various vegetables and others would need less:

Beet.....	2 ounces.	Peas, garden.....	1 to 2 pints.
Cabbage, late.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce to 1 ounce.	Radish.....	1 ounce.
Corn, sweet.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ pint.	Spinach.....	2 ounces.
Lettuce.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.	Tomatoes, late.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ ounce.
Muskmelon.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.	Turnips.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
Onion sets.....	1 quart.	Watermelon.....	1 ounce.

The string beans, bush lima beans, sweet corn, lettuce, peas, and radishes will not all be planted at one time, but successive plantings two to three weeks apart will be made, so as to have a fresh supply throughout the season.

Of early Irish potatoes, 1 peck to one-half bushel will be required, and of late potatoes one-half bushel to 1 bushel or more, depending upon the amount of ground available for this purpose. If possible, enough Irish potatoes should be grown to last throughout the winter.

This circular will be followed immediately by others giving instructions on planning the garden, planting the seeds, caring for the plants, growing succession crops, and home use of vegetables.

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